

# SAWMILLS



## EXPLANATION

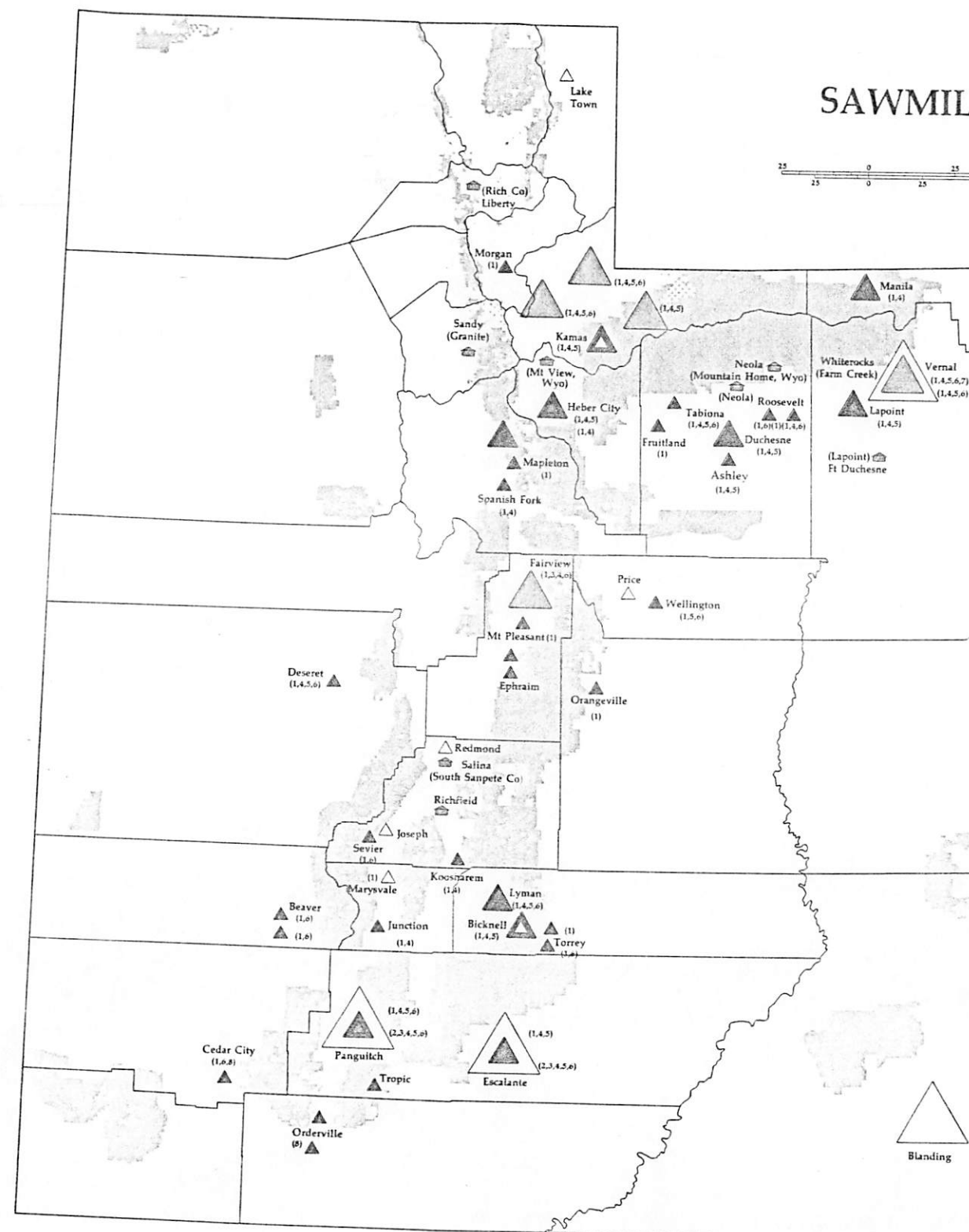
- △ Idle Mill
- ▲ Class I — under 500 thousand board feet
- ▲ Class II — 500 thousand to 1 million board feet
- ▲ Class III — 1 million to 5 million board feet
- ▲ Class IV — above 5 million board feet

□ National Forest

⌘ Operator's Residence (Mill Location)

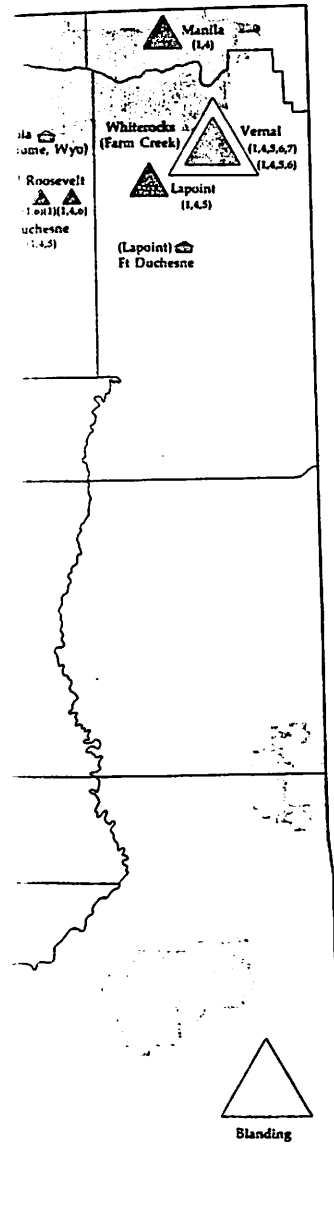
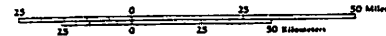
## Mill Equipment

1. Circular Saw Headrig
2. Band Headrig
3. Sash Gang
4. Edger
5. Trim-Cutoff
6. Planer
7. Kiln
8. Mobile





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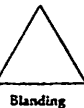
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Banding

For reference, see Bibliography, numbers 35, 358

# Timber Production

Approximately 30 percent of Utah is classified as forest land (15.28 million acres), of which about half is administered by the U.S. Forest Service. The other half is privately owned, state owned, or under the jurisdiction of various federal agencies, particularly the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Production of timber in Utah is much less than other western states; only Nevada produces less.

Most of the timber cut in the state is taken from the national forests. In recent years this figure has ranged around 85 to 90 percent, with the balance coming primarily from privately owned forest land.

As the volume table to the right shows, total timber production in Utah varies markedly from year to year as economic conditions affect demand and prices and according to removal quotas set by the U.S. Forest Service. At the same time value of timber has varied even more widely. In 1973, for example, Utah sawmill production was worth \$15.7 million, but dropped to \$8.3 million in 1975.

Among Utah's national forests, Wasatch led in production in 1976 with over 17 million board feet. But the volume cut has varied considerably from year to year and from forest to forest.

A study of Utah forests in 1974 provided figures of timber production by counties. Uintah County was the leader in that year, followed in order by Garfield, Kane, Summit, Grand, and San Juan.

The same study also tabulated volume of timber cut by species, shown in the production of specific tables. Ponderosa pine, Utah's most valuable commercial timber species, is harvested mainly in the high plateaus of the southern part of the state and is primarily processed into lumber of high quality. Lodgepole pine thrives in the northern sections of Utah, principally in the Uinta Mountains. Most lodgepole pine logged is also converted into common-use lumber, but a portion is also cut into mining timbers, telephone poles, posts, and fuel wood. Engelmann spruce is more widely distributed in the state than either ponderosa or lodgepole pine. Virtually

Volume of Timber Cut from Utah National Forests, 1974-1976  
(In millions of board feet)

National Forest	1974	1975	1976
Ashley	15.9	12.3	9.7
Dixie	22.0	18.2	15.4
Fishlake	.4	1.3	4.4
Manti-LaSal	12.8	5.7	2.8
Uintah	1.4	1.9	1.5
Wasatch	12.4	6.3	17.0
Sawtooth	9.0	9.4	.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>55.1</b>	<b>50.83</b>

Timber Production by Species, 1974

	Cubic Feet	Percent of Total
Ponderosa pine	4,038,000	33.1
Lodgepole pine	3,265,000	26.8
Engelmann spruce	2,632,000	21.6
Douglas fir	952,000	7.8
Aspen, cottonwoods, and other hardwoods	543,000	4.5
Juniper, Limber pine, and Pinyon pine	446,000	3.6
True firs	318,000	2.6

all of it is processed into lumber. Among other species Douglas fir and aspen are used for lumber and excelsior, while pinyon pine and juniper are processed mostly for firewood and fence posts. However, in 1976 some 300,000 Christmas trees, mainly pinyon pine, were cut and marketed principally in the large urban areas of the west coast.

About 90 percent of Utah's timber is processed in one of the state's 64 sawmills. By counties, Duchesne has the most sawmills (8), followed by Uintah (6), Garfield (6), Summit (5), Wayne (5), and Sanpete (5).

The Class IV and III sawmills in the state are full-time operations that employ hundreds of workers both in the mills and in the forests. Kaibab Industries (Panguitch) owns the state's largest mill, which employs 170 employees. The more numerous Class I mills are generally mobile operations of two or three employees and production is seasonal. Some mills may close for months—or years—if economic conditions are unfavorable or if logging permits are denied by the U.S. Forest Service.

Although the number of sawmills has declined from 155 in 1952 to 58 active mills in 1976, the volume of timber cut has increased. However, the U.S. Forest Service strictly regulates the state's harvest in accord with its policy of equalizing removal and regrowth. As the more easily accessible stands are cut, and forest land is withdrawn from timber production for other uses (such as recreation, water reclamation, watershed protection, grazing, and farming), it appears that future output will either level out—possibly from 50 to 60 million board feet per year—or begin a gradual long-term decline. There are optimists in the industry, however, who feel that greater efficiencies in production, combined with new products for markets, could stimu-

late increased output.

All predictions depend on economic conditions. Utah's timber consumption is much higher than output, and nearby states produce larger quantities of timber at highly competitive prices. The survival of the Utah industry, particularly the smaller sawmills, is therefore precarious. The smaller, less efficient, mills in Utah must carefully control their production costs in order to assure continued markets.

For reference, see Bibliography, numbers 35, 90, 285, 317, 318, 358

James W. King

Utah Atlas  
2-3-86

Volume of Timber Cut (National Forests)  
Selected Years  
(In millions of board feet)

1950	33.3
1952	31.3
1955	37.9
1960	61.9
1965	54.4
1968	77.1
1970	54.3
1972	57.7
1973	53.7
1974	73.9
1975	55.1
1976	50.8
1977	54.0
1978	57.0
1979	44.4

